

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

NEWS RELEASE



Cora Campbell, Commissioner
Jeff Regnart, Director



Contact:
Jim Menard, Area Management Biologist
Scott M. Kent, Asst. Area Management Biologist
Phone: (907) 443-5167
Fax: (907) 443-5893

Nome Area Office
P.O. Box 1148
Nome, Alaska 99762
Date Issued: 7/29/2013
Time: 4:35 p.m.

NORTON SOUND COMMERCIAL SALMON OPENINGS

There will be commercial salmon openings beginning Wednesday, July 31 in all Norton Sound Subdistricts. Commercial permit holders in all subdistricts are limited to 100 fathoms of net and gillnets must have a mesh size of 6 inches or less. Commercial fishing opening times for each subdistrict are as follows:

Subdistrict 1, the Nome Subdistrict, will reopen to commercial salmon fishing for 24 hours from 12:00 noon Wednesday, July 31 to 12:00 noon Thursday, August 1.

Subdistricts 2 and 3, the Golovin and Elim Subdistricts, will reopen to commercial salmon fishing for 24 hours from 6:00 p.m. Thursday, August 1 to 6:00 p.m. Friday, August 2. The entire Elim Subdistrict from Carson Creek eastward to Bald Head will be open during this period.

Subdistrict 4, the Norton Bay Subdistrict, will reopen to commercial salmon fishing for 48 hours from 6:00 p.m. Friday, August 2 to 6:00 p.m. Sunday, August 4.

Subdistricts 5 and 6, the Shaktoolik and Unalakleet Subdistricts, will reopen to commercial salmon fishing for 48 hours from 6:00 p.m. Wednesday, July 31, to 6:00 p.m. Friday, August 2.

Chum salmon catches are decreasing and catches of coho salmon are increasing in most areas of Norton Sound. The Nome Subdistrict period is being provided to allow some late run chum salmon to be harvested for crab hanging bait. Catch information from these brief periods in the other subdistricts will be used to assess early coho salmon run strength. Initial periods are also being kept brief to ensure some coho salmon reach spawning areas and contribute to inriver subsistence harvests before commercial fishing time is liberalized. Historical catch statistics will be compared to this catch numbers from these initial index openings to adjust fishing time for subsequent periods. The pre-season harvest outlook for Norton Sound was 30,000–60,000 coho salmon. Thus far, catches and initial escapement of coho salmon is an improvement from the previous 3 seasons. However, it is too early to tell if this year's coho salmon run is showing early run timing or good early run strength.